

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02171 041809Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /078 W

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R 032110Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8242

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2171

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR HO ES

SUBJ: EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS-OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEETING

REF: A) STATE 120951, B) SAN SALVADOR 1699

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO MAY 29 FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING HIS REACTION TO THE OASGA AND THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN'S MEETING ON THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR ISSUE. BORGONOVO LET IM READ HIS REPORT ON THE LATTER TO PRESIDENT MOLINA ALONG WITH THE TEXTS OF THE SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN STATEMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE, WHICH ADDED TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFTEL A.

2. CONCERNING THE OASGA, BORGONOVO ADDED LITTLE TO THE FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS HE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR EARLIER AND REPORTED REFTEL B. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT THE CHANGED FORMAT, EXCLUDING OPENING SPEECHES, AND THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS CONTRIBUTED TO A MORE HONEST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND ABSENCE OF CON-
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02171 041809Z

FRONTATIONAL POSTURES. HE COMMENTED LITTLE ON THE SUBSTANCE

OF THE MEETING, SAYING ONLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED SAN JOSE MEETING TO AMEND RIO TREATY PROVISIONS ON SANCTIONS, THAT MEXICO WANTS TO GO THE LONGER REVISION ROUTE TO DEMONSTRATE LEGALLY IT HAS BEEN "WITHOUT SIN" IN ITS CUBN POLICY.

3. THE THRUST OF BORGONOVO'S REPORT TO PREISIDENT MOLINA AND HIS COMMENTS CONCERNING THE HONDURAN POSITION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN IS THAT HONDURAS, UNABLE POLITICALLY TO DEFINE ITS POSITION ON RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT, IS CHOOSING IN THE MEANWHILE TO RESURRECT A PREVIOUSLY DISCARDED FORMULA (THE FORMAL MEXICAN NEGOTIATIONS) IN ORDER TO CREATE THE APPEARANCE OF BEING FORTHCOMING AND PUTTING THE BALL IN THE SALVADORAN COURT. BORGONOVO SAID HE SPOKE WITH GOH FOREIGN MINISTER GALVEZ AFTER THE MEETING AND ASKED HIM WHAT VALIDITY THE GOH STATEMENTS OF SANTO TOMAS DE CASTILLA AND JALAPU RETAINED AND THETHER OR NOT THE GOH WAS PREPARED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ALONG THE LINES OF BATRES, I.E., DIRECT INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS/MEDIATION. GLAVEZ RESPONDED, ACCORDING TO BORGONOVO, THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED DECLARATIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY THE JALAPA STATEMENT CONCERNING EARLY RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WERE MERELY STATEMENTS OF GOOD INTENTIONS; THEY MUST BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT. THE FORMULA DEVELOPED BETWEEN BORGONOVO AND BATRES (AT WHICH SESSIONS BORGONOVO SAYS GALVEZ WAS ALMOST ALWAYS PRESENT) IS TO BE FORGOTTEN. NEITHER IN GALVEZ' FORMAL STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTE OR SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE WITH BORGONOVO WAS ANY ALLUSION MADE TO THE MILITARY CONTACTS TAKING PLACE IN RECENT WEEKS.

4. BORGONOVO INTERPRETS GALVEZ' POSITION AS REPRESENTING THE BEST THAT COULD BE EXPECTED GIVEN THE DIFFUSED POLITICAL BASE FROM WHICH HE OPERATES. BOROGONOVO REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE "JUNTA OF 27" AND SAID THAT UNTIL THE POLITICAL SITUATION CLARIFIES IN HONDURAS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS GOH POSITION ON A FUTURE COURSE OF SETTLEMENT. HE SAID HE HOPED DR. FRANCISCO AQUINO (FAO) AND ECONOMY MINISTER HIDALGO QUEHL, WHO WERE ATTENDING THE CEPAL MEETING IN TEGUCIGALPA, WOULD ON THEIR RETURN BE ABLE TO ENLIGHTEN THE GOES ON HONDURAN POLITICAL REALITIES. BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 02171 041809Z

HIS CURRENT IMPRESSION IS THAT COL. MELGAR DOES NOT DOMINATE, AT LEAST IN ALL MATTERS, THE "27"; AND UNTIL SOME LEADERSHIP EMERGES IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH HONDURAS. ON THE MILITARY FRONT HE ALSO ANTICIPATED ANOTHER READING ON THE HONDURAN POSITION BEFORE THE OAS FROM THE MAY 29 AFTERNOON BORDER MEETING BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE MILITARY COMMANDS. HE SAID HE GAVE CHIEF OF STAFF AND HIS G-2 A COPY OF HIS REPORT TO PRESIDENT MOLINA ALONG WITH THE

RESPECTIVE TEXTS OF PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN.

5. FOR THIS PART, BORGONOVO SAID HE WOULD COMPLETE THE NECESSARY REPLY TO THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN AND THEN TRY TO PUT THE MATTER TO REST UNTIL THE HONDURAN POLITICAL SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER. HE SAID HE PLACED A CALL TO FOREIGN MINISTER GALVEZ EARLIER IN THE WEEK TO MAINTAIN CONTACT AND DISCUSS THE HONDURAN REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SALVADORAN-HOSTED MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST, BUT AS YET HAD NO REPLY TO HIS CALL.

6. COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT THE PROVERBIAL BALL IS IN EL SALVADOR'S COURT IS IN THE PERCEPTION CONVEYED TO BORGONOVO BY THE PROCEEDING. THAT HONDURAS REINTRODUCED WHAT GOES CONSIDERS AN OBSOLETE MECHANISM, WITH ITS CONTINGENCY OF OUTSIDE ADJUDICATION OR ARBITRATION (WHICH REMAIN UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOES), MUST BE VIEWED AS A GOOD DIPLOMATIC TACTIC, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ONE WHICH WILL ENHANCE ANY PROGRESS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT. GIVEN THE REAL OR PERCEIVED POLITICAL SITUATION IN HONDURAS, THE SALVADORAN RESPONSE OF "WAIT AND SEE" IS UNDERSTANDABLE BUT IT MAKES MORE UNLIKELY ANY SETTLEMENT BEFORE SALVADORAN ELECTIONS DOMINATE THE LANDSCAPE AND RELEGATES THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM TO OTHER YEARS. ESSENTIALLY, EXCEPT FOR A MORE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE, IT APPEARS THE ISSUE IS NO FURTHER ADVANCED THAN AT THE TERMINATION OF THE MEXICAN TALKS IN DECEMBER 1973.

7. DURING THIS WEEK AMBASSADOR ARRANGED A TRIP WITH AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ DURING WHICH THEY WILL EXCHANGE IDEAS ON THIS PROBLEM. HOPEFULLY THEY CAN COME UP WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED AGAIN. AT THIS MOMENT THE FOREIGN MINISTER S HAVE HIT A STALEMATE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 02171 041809Z

BUT THERE MAY BE A POSSIBLE ROUTE THROUGH THE MILITARY AND/OR CHIEFS OF STATE. THE MAY 29 MILITARY MEETING TURNED OUT TO BE THE SETTLEMENT OF A BORDER INCIDENT, BUT A MEETING AT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE LEVEL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE, POSSIBLY FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE.

8. AMBASSADOR SENDS CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL OASGA, AND HOPES THAT THE DIALOGUE HAS BEEN RESTORED AND THAT THE MOMENTUM WILL CONTINUE. YOUR REPORTING WAS TIMELY AND EXCELLENT. THANKS FOR KEEPING US SO WELL INFORMED. IT HELPS US TO DO A BETTER JOB IN THE MISSION.

MOSKOWITZ

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